

# The Weekly Journal.

VOL. 2.

CAMDEN, S. C., FRIDAY MORNING, 14 JULY 1865.

NO. 2.

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EDITORS.

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## Interview Between the President and the South Carolina Delegation—the President's Policy.

WASHINGTON, June 24, 1865.—A delegation from South Carolina, consisting of the following named persons, had late this afternoon an interview, by appointment, with the President: Judge Frost, Isaac E. Holmes, Geo. W. Williams, W. H. Gilliland, J. H. Steinmeyer, Frederick Richards, Wm. Whaley, James H. Taylor, William J. Gayer, and Joseph A. Yates.

The President said that it was his intention to talk plainly, so there might be no misunderstanding. Therefore it were better they should look each other full in the face, and not initiate the ancient augures, who, when they met one another, could smile at their success in deceiving the people. He said if this Union was to be preserved it must be on the principle of fraternity, both the Northern and Southern States maintaining certain relations to the Government. A State cannot go out of the Union, and, therefore, none of them having gone out, we must deal with the question of restoration, and not reconstruction. He suspected that he was a better States Rights man than some of those now present.

Mr. Holmes—you always so claimed to be (laughter.)

The President replied that he always thought that slavery could not be sustained outside of the Constitution of the United States, and that whenever the experiment was made it would blow away. Whether it could or could not, he was for the Union, and that if slavery set itself up to control the Government, the Government must triumph and slavery perish. The institution of slavery made the issue, and we might as well meet it like wise and patriotic and honest men. All institutions must be subordinate to the Government, and slavery has given way. He could not if he would remand it to its former status. He knew that some whom he now addressed looked upon him as a great people's man and a radical. But how ever pleasant it might be to them, he had no hesitation in saying that before and after he entered the public life he was opposed to monopolies and perpetuities and entails. For this he used to be denounced as a demagogue. We had a monopoly at the South in slaves. Though he had bought and held slaves, he had never sold one. From Magna Charta we had derived our ideas of freedom of speech, liberty of the press and unreasonable searches, and that private property should not be taken for public uses without just compensation. He had these notions fixed in his mind, and was therefore opposed to class legislation. Being providentially brought to his present condition, he intended to exert the power and influence of the Government so as to place in power the popular heart of this nation.

He proceeded on the principle that the great masses are not the mushrooms about a stump, which the wet weather supplies. He believed that this nation was sent on a great mission—

to afford an example of freedom and substantial happiness to all the powers of the earth. The Constitution of the United States, in speaking of persons to be chosen as Representatives in Congress, says that the electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislature. Here we find a resting place. This was the point at which the rebellion commenced. All the States were in the Union, moving in harmony; but a portion of them rebelled, and to some extent suspended and paralyzed the operations of their Governments. There is a constitutional obligation resting on the United States Government to put down rebellion, suppress insurrection and repel invasion. The slaves went into the war as slaves, and came out as free men of color. The friction of the rebellion has rubbed out the nature and character of slavery. The loyal men who were compelled to bow and submit to the rebellion should, now that the rebellion is ended, stand equal to loyal men everywhere. Hence the wish of restoration and the trying to get back the States to the point at which they formerly moved in perfect harmony.

He did not intend to serve any particular clique or interest. He would say to the delegation that slavery is gone as an institution. There was no hope that the people of South Carolina could be admitted into the Senate of the House of Representatives until they had afforded evidence by their conduct of this truth. The policy, now that the rebellion is suppressed, is not to restore the State Government through military rule, but by the people, while the war has emancipated slaves, it has emancipated a larger number of white men. He would talk plain, as the delegation had said that was what they desired. He could go to men who had owned fifty or a hundred slaves, and who did not care as much for the poor white man as they did for the negro. Those who own the land have the capital to employ help, and therefore some of our Northern friends are deceived when they living after off, think they can exercise a greater control over the freedmen than the Southern men who have been reared where the institution of slavery has prevailed. Now he did not want the late slaveholders to control the negro votes against white men. Let each State judge of the depository of its own political power. He was for emancipation. He was for emancipating the white man as well as the black.

Mr. Holmes asked—Is not that altogether accomplished?

The President replied that he did not think the question fully settled. The question as to whether the black man shall be engrafted in the Constitution will be settled as we go along. He would not disguise the fact that while he had been persecuted and denounced at the South as a traitor, he loved the great mass of the Southern people. He opposed the rebellion at its breaking, and fought it everywhere, and now wanted the principles of the Government carried out and maintained.

Mr. Holmes interrupted by saying: We want to get back to the same position as you describe, as we are with out law, no courts are opened, and you have the power to assist us.

The President replied that the Government cannot go on unless it is based on right. The people of South Carolina must have a Convention, and amend their constitution by abolishing slavery, and this must be done in good faith, and the Convention or Legislature must adopt the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which prohibits and excludes slavery everywhere.

One of the delegates said: "We are most anxious for civil rule, for we have had more than enough for military despotism."

The President, resuming, said that as the Executive he could only take the initiatory steps to enable them to do the things which it was incumbent upon them to perform.

Another of the delegates remarked that it was assumed in some parts of the country that in consequence of the rebellion the Southern States had forfeited their rights as members of the Confederacy, and that if restored it could only be on certain conditions, one of which was that slavery shall be abolished. This could be done only through a Convention.

The President replied that the friction of the rebellion had rubbed slavery out, but it would be better so to declare by law. As one of the delegates had just remarked, that the Constitution of South Carolina did not establish slavery; it were better to insert a clause antagonistic to slavery.

Judge Frost said, substantially: The object of our prayer is the appointment of a Governor. The State of South Carolina will accept these conditions in order that law and order may be restored, and that enterprise and industry may be directed to useful ends. We desire restoration as soon as possible. It is the part of wisdom to make the best of circumstances. Certain delusions have been dispelled by the revolution; among them that slavery is an element of political strength and moral power. It is very certain that the old notion respecting State rights, in the maintenance of which those who made the rebellion in South Carolina erred, has ceased to exist. Another delusion, viz: that cotton is king, has likewise vanished in smoke. We are to come back with these notions dispelled and with a new system of labor. The people will cordially cooperate with the Government in making that labor effective and elevating the negro as much as they can. It is, however, more a work of time than the labor of enthusiasm and fanaticism. The people of the South have the largest interest in the question. We are willing to co-operate for selfish, if for no higher motives. We have taken the liberty, encouraged by your kindness, to throw out suggestions by which the policy of the Government will be most surely and effectually subserved. I repeat that the new system of labor is to be inaugurated by clear, sound and discreet judgement. The negroes are ignorant.—Their minds are much inflamed with liberty.—They are apt to confound liberty with license. Their great idea is, I fear, that freedom consists of exemption from work. We will take in good faith and carry out your intention with zeal and hope for the best; and none will rejoice more than the people of the South if emancipation prove successful. Freedom to the slave is freedom to the master, provided you can supply a motive for industry. The people of South Carolina, from their fidelity to honor, have submitted to great sacrifice; they endured all. We are defeated and conquered by the North, who are too strong for us. The same good faith which animated them in the contest will not be found wanting in their pledge of loyal support to the Government. There may grow out of this blessings which you have not foreseen, and some pleasing rays now illumine the horizon. I suppose the oath of allegiance will be taken with as much unanimity in South Carolina as anywhere else, and we will submit to the condition of things which Providence has assigned, and endeavor to believe.

All discord harmony not understood,  
And partial evil universal good.

We cheerfully accept the measures recommended, and would thank you to nominate at your convenience a Governor to carry out the wishes you have expressed.

Pres. Johnson asked the delegation to submit whom they would prefer to have as Provisional Governor.

To this they replied they had a list of five men, viz: Aiken, McIlhenny, Boyce, Col. Manning, late Governor, and B. F. Perry. All of them were spoken of as good men, but who had been more or less involved in the rebellion. Mr. Perry was a District Judge in the Confederacy; until a few weeks before it collapsed and is said to have always been a good Union man and a gentleman of strict integrity. The people certainly would respect him, and he could not fail to be acceptable.

The President said he knew Benjamin Perry well, having served with him in Congress. There was no spirit of vengeance or vindictiveness on the part of the Government, whose only desire was to restore the relations which formerly existed. He was not now prepared to give them an answer as to whom he should appoint. But at the Cabinet meeting next Tuesday he would repeat the substance of this interview, with a hope to the restoration which the gentleman present earnestly desired.

The delegates seemed to be much pleased with the proceedings, and lingered for some time to individually converse with the President.

## General Buckner's Farewell Address.

HEAD QRS BUCKNER'S CORPS,  
SHREVEPORT, LA., JUNE 8, 1865.

SOLDIERS—The struggle for independence has ceased. As soldiers of the Confederate States—an army defending the rights of your country—you won the respect of your enemies and the admiration of the civilized world. The power which you could not resist has crushed the hopes which you had cherished, and compelled, by force of arms, obedience to the United States. You have obligated yourselves to abstain from further acts of hostility, and are permitted to return to your homes to follow your peaceful avocations without molestation of your persons. The same fidelity which you displayed upon the battlefields should be shown in the new engagements into which you have voluntarily entered. Go peaceably to your homes, cultivate friendly relations with all, abstain from all hostile acts, and discountenance every attempt at disorder. You will have much to forgive and much to endure; but as courage has been your characteristic on the field, let the spirit of magnanimity and fortitude guide your actions in private life. When the passions of the hour shall have subsided a returning sense of justice will compel even the people whom we have so long resisted to concede that justice must have been the basis of the cause which inspired so many acts of heroism and gave rise to the feeling of self-sacrifice and devotion which you have so often displayed. To the Missouri troops of my corps my commendations are especially due for the orderly deportment and firm discipline which they have shown in the most trying emergencies. Soldiers, our official relations are now severed. You will carry with you, in your homes or into exile, my warmest wishes for your prosperity and happiness.

S. B. BUCKNER,  
Lieutenant General.

It is not a little singular, that the letters that spell *debt*, are the initials of the sentence, "Dun Every Body Twice;" and the letters which spell *credit*, are the initials of the sentence, "Call Regularly Every Day—I'll Trust."